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Michael Hofferbert
Kirkland, WA 98033

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration, 5630
Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

I am writing in reference to Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food". As a consumer, I enjoy being able to make choices at the supermarket. I am very concerned that this might be severely hindered by the FDA in the arena of irradiated foods. I am not interested in consuming irradiated products. I want food that's undergone irradiation to be very clearly marked so consumers can easily avoid purchasing it if they wish. Any regulations to relax labeling of irradiated food is unacceptable to me.

I am concerned that the FDA might be considering allowing organically grown products to undergo irradiation. I understand it is currently illegal to do so, and hope that any attempt to relax this now or in the future will be swiftly curbed. IT MAKES NO SENSE TO ALLOW PRODUCTS THAT HAVE UNDERGONE IRRADIATION TO BE SOLD AS ORGANIC.

I hope you'll consider my comments when making your decisions.

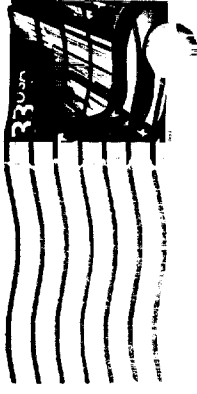
Sincerely,


Michael Hofferbert

98N-1038

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